

EXTRA!

INVASION!



Allied Landings Begun in France, Eisenhower Says

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, June 6 (Tuesday.) (A.P.)—American, British and Canadian troops landed in Northern France this morning, launching the greatest overseas military operation in history with word from their supreme commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, that "we will accept nothing except full victory" over the German masters of the continent.

The invasion, which Eisenhower called "a great crusade," was announced at 7:32 a.m. Greenwich mean time (12:32 a.m., Pacific War Time) in this one-sentence Communique No. 1:

"Under the command of Gen. Eisenhower, Allied naval forces supported by strong air forces began landing Allied armies this morning on the northern coast of France."

It was announced moments later that Britain's Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, hero of the African desert, was in charge of the assault.

Landing Points Undisclosed

The locations of the landings were not announced.

Eisenhower himself wished Godspeed to the parachutists who were the first to land on the enemy-held soil of France.

For three hours previous to the Allied announcement the German radio had been pouring forth a series of flashes reporting that the Allies were landing between Le Havre and Cherbourg along the south side of the Bay of the Seine and along the north coast of Normandy.

This would be across the Channel and almost due south of such British ports as Hastings, Brighton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth.

The Germans also said parachutists had descended in Normandy and were being engaged by Nazi shock troops.

Berlin said the "center of gravity" of the fierce fighting was at Caen, 30 miles southwest of Le Havre and 65 miles southeast of Cherbourg.

Caen is 10 miles inland from the sea, at the base of the 75-mile-wide Normandy Peninsula.

Heavy fighting also was reported between Caen and Trouville.

One of Berlin's first claims was that the first British parachute division was badly mauled.

Gen. Montgomery, hero of the African desert, was leading

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WHERE ALLIES ARE STRIKING—Arrows indicate the ports and coastal regions where Allied armies of invasion were reported swarming ashore in France early this morning.

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ALLIES LANDING ON FRENCH COAST

Eisenhower Communique Says Troops, With Strong Air and Sea Support, Begin Invasion

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the assault of the Allied liberation army.

No other Allied commanders were announced, for thousands of battle-trained Allied troops, although Omar Bradley has been in command of American ground forces in England for several months.

Bradley participated in the Tunisian victory.

Thousands of battle-trained American, British and Canadian troops hurled themselves at Hitler's western defenses after months of preparation.

Huge troopship armadas slipped out of English ports in the darkness and sped toward Europe where four years almost to the day Britain brought back the last battle-wounded defenders of Dunkirk.

The Germans also declared that Calais and Dunkirk were under heavy air attack.

Press Reports Delayed

The German radio gave the first reports of the invasion while correspondents were hurriedly summoned from London to supreme press headquarters and locked in a press conference room until the communique was released several hours after the landings were made.

It was made known at Allied headquarters that the supreme command felt it necessary to yield the initiative of the war of words to the Germans in order to retain the initiative on land and keep the German high command in the dark as long as possible.

Greatest in History

The great Allied armadas dwarfed anything yet seen on the sea.

Huge transport planes filled with paratroopers and pulling airborne troops in gliders roared over the German west coast to drop their cargoes in the rear.

Berlin said that masses of Allied parachute troops bailed out over Normandy, trying to seize airfields.

Just before taking off in the darkness the paratroopers were wished Godspeed by the lanky Kansas supreme commander, Gen. Eisenhower.

He was accompanied by several other of his commanders and his face was tense but confident as he strode down the long lines of fighting men.

All night long London and England resounded to the roar of thousands of airplanes, some carrying bombs, some carrying men. Returning R.A.F. bombers met big fleets of Flying Fortresses on their way out.

Rommel Likely Main Foe

The forces thrown into operation were by far the greatest ever used in an amphibious operation. They had to take an estimated million German troops waited in their fortifications for the great onslaught under crack Nazi Field Marshals Runstedt and Rommel.

It was reported earlier this week that Adolf Hitler himself had a special train ready to rush him to France to take over personal command as he did on the east front.

Despite these reports Allied military men expected Rommel to be the main tactician on German defense but on the Allied side were the team of Eisenhower and Montgomery—the men who chased Rommel from Africa.

Little Chance to Hide

Although amphibious attacks are the most difficult in war, a quiet feeling of confidence characterized the Allied generals.

Just what element of surprise, if any, the landing troops achieved was not immediately announced by supreme headquarters. There was no chance to hide the great convoy with only about five hours' darkness on the Channel.

On several occasions thousands of troops, even with correspondents aboard, sailed out in great fleets to almost within shell range of German defenses in Europe as though they were going to attack while Nazi reconnaissance planes closely checked convoys.

These feints have been carried out on widely separate points.

Nazis Didn't Know Where

The supreme command made no bones about its intention to attack but the surprise was that the Germans did not know where the main blow was coming.

In four previous big amphibious landings to date the Allies obtained tactical surprise three times—at Anzio, Sicily and North Africa. At Salerno the Germans guessed the landing spot and were waiting.

Le Havre lies 80 miles across the Channel from the British coast.

Dunkirk and Calais Reported Attacked

Dunkirk and Calais, just across the Channel coast from Britain, were under attack by strong formations of bombers D.N.B. said.

"The long-expected invasion by the British and American was begun in the first hours of the morning of June 6 by the landing of parachute troops in the area of the mouth of the Seine," declared the Transocean broadcast.

D.N.B. added that "no enemy landings were made yet at Calais and Dunkirk," obviously an indication that the Germans were expecting Allied assaults all along the intervening 150 miles separating Dunkirk and Le Havre.

Paratroops Landing

The enemy broadcasts recorded by the Associated Press were prefaced and ended with the line "special bulletin."

After the Transocean and D.N.B. German agencies had announced the "invasion," one of D.N.B. subsidiaries, the Interinf (International Information Bureau) took to the air with this announcement:

"Anglo-American parachute troops are bailing out on the northern tip of the Normandy Peninsula to capture several airfields in order to make room for further landings of parachute troops."

The Germans have been predicting that the Allies would strike as soon as the Allied campaign in Italy showed good progress—as it has done with the capture of Rome.

Coast Well Blasted

The Allies have been battering the French Channel coast, of which Le Havre is a part, for months now as a prelude to invasion.